

Message Text

SECRET

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ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

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-----121908 070248Z /64

P 070016Z SEP 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 213383

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, KS, UN

SUBJECT: ALLEGED KOREAN PAYOFFS TO UN DIPLOMATS

1. ROK EMBASSY COUNSELOR YU CALLED AT DEPARTMENT
SEPTEMBER 2 TO EXPRESS QUOTE DISMAY UNQUOTE OVER PRESS
REPORTS (ATLANTA CONSTITUTION, UPI) THAT ROK UN
OBSERVER MISSION HAS ENGAGED IN PAYOFFS TO UN
DELEGATES AND OTHERS. ACCORDING TO STORY BANK RECORDS
OF FORMER ROK UN MISSION OFFICIAL (AND PRESENT
AMBASSADOR TO CANADA) HAN, BYUNG KI WERE SUBPOENAED.
STORY LAID TO JUSTICE DEPARTMENT SOURCES. ARTICLE HAS
RECEIVED LITTLE SUBSEQUENT PRESS ATTENTION.

2. YU WAS PARTICULARLY DISTURBED IN VIEW OF SENSITIVITY
OF ROK DEALINGS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES. WHEN DEPTOFF STATED
THAT JUSTICE HAD NOT SUBPOENAED BANK RECORDS

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OF ROK UN MISSION,
YU SAID HE BELIEVED THE SOURCE OF
THE STORY WAS THE HOUSE ETHICS COMMITTEE, AND THAT SUCH
AN INVESTIGATION BY THE COMMITTEE IS IN DIRECT VIOLATION
OF AN EXPLICIT UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE COMMITTEE STAFF
AND THE EMBASSY. HE ASKED THAT STATE AND JUSTICE DENY
THAT JUSTICE HAD SUBPOENAED ROK UN BANK RECORDS, AND THAT

THE DEPARTMENT REMIND THE ETHICS COMMITTEE OF ITS COMMITMENT TO THE ROK REGARDING HANDLING OF MATERIAL RELATED TO ROK UN MISSION.

3. DEPTOFF TELEPHONED YU SEPTEMBER 6 AND SUGGESTED THAT, GIVEN THE FACT THAT THE CONSTITUTION STORY HAD RECEIVED LITTLE FURTHER PRESS ATTENTION, AND THAT A DENIAL WOULD ONLY SPARK SUCH ATTENTION, THE ROKG NOT PRESS FOR A DENIAL PER PARA TWO ABOVE. AFTER SOME HESITATION YU AGREED THAT THIS IS THE BEST COURSE, BUT HE NOTED THAT SHOULD PRESS ATTENTION TO THIS STORY REVIVE ROKG MAY WISH TO RENEW ITS REQUEST FOR A DENIAL. CONCERNING THE ETHICS COMMITTEE REQUEST, DEPTOFF INFORMED YU THAT WE HAVE RAISED THE ISSUE WITH A MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE STAFF, WHO WAS UNAWARE OF THE CONSTITUTION ARTICLE. HE TOLD YU THAT THE COMMITTEE STAFFER SAID HE WOULD LOOK INTO THE MATTER.

4. COPIES OF MEMCONS BEING POUCHED. VANCE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BRIBERY, DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL, ALLEGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 07-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE213383
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: DBLAKEMORE:JCM
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770322-1254
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770990/aaaacxyk.tel
Line Count: 81
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 4c3a4a4b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1363322
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ALLEGED KOREAN PAYOFFS TO UN DIPLOMATS
TAGS: PGOV, PINS, KS, UN
To: SEOUL
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/4c3a4a4b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009